

THE NASIG NEWSLETTER



The Newsletter of the North American Serials Interest Group, Inc.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER / Ann Okerson

Here it is, the last column I have to write as President and easily the most difficult. I've done my riffs about the glories of our populist NASIG support base, about NASIG's becoming a small electronic village, about publishing, about joint conferences and collaborations with other organizations, and about running for office. Maybe it is time to share with you some of my favorite and least favorite aspects of NASIG office, so here goes:

WHAT I WILL MISS:

1. The well-oiled machine. And it is that, indeed. There has been an enormous investment by various people in establishing sensible procedures, documenting them, and reminding all officers and chairs of their precise responsibilities. Teresa Malinowski has created a month by month calendar with which she keeps us all in line and on time. The calendar is the best organizing tool I have possessed (actually, received at the end of every month for the month ahead) and I hope Teresa finds someone to do for her what she has done for us. I only wish I could find someone to do this for the other parts of my professional life!

The informal machine is also well-oiled. I will miss the "turn-on-a-dime" response of many NASIG colleagues. Some of them are: Ann Vidor, who mails out expense reimbursements at [continued on page 3]

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Send all submissions, Calendar of Events items, and editorial comments to:

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breakneck speed; Joan Stephens who can generate critical lists of members and finances almost overnight; task force leaders (this past year Danny Jones, Birdie MacLennan, and John Tagler) who produced excellent and complete projects and reports without any nagging at all.

2. The sense of being part of and vital to an organization full of excellences in its individuals and programs. It is not possible to list you all and to describe the pleasure of your professional company.

3. Wise counsel. In particular it comes over and over again from individuals who are part of the 7-year "institutional memory" of NASIG, who have had a much bigger part in it than I since 1986. The continuity provided by all current Board members who served in previous years, is beyond price.

4. Chairing the Program Committee. Oh, it is indeed a pain at times but watching the conference program take shape as all the committee members scout and rope in talented speakers and workshop leaders, and as Local Arrangements adds their own special energy and good humor to the process, is in the end a truly satisfying experience. Watching the proceedings take shape and seeing them in print culminates in the finale, the chocolate sauce on top of the cherry on the whipped cream on the sundae.

WHAT I WILL DEFINITELY NOT MISS:

1. Newsletter deadlines. Now, it must be said that IF one must have newsletter deadlines, then one needs Jean Callaghan for an editor. Jean is determined without being demanding. Jean has learned that this president needs "handling" and her first effort was to, in effect, set the watch to run fast. In real life, this means that one gives the president a deadline a few days in advance of the true one. Jean was quick to learn that I was a tough case so next she resorted to directness and honesty: giving me the REAL date for submission. The effect was not all that any self-respecting editor could wish. This time she simply gave me TWO deadlines: the real one (the one she gave all submitters) and the REALLY real one, her drop-dead date. I am pleased to report that I am only 3 days late in regard to the latter. But, seriously, it IS difficult to write columns that are readable

and neither self-indulgent nor self-parodying -- nor saccharine, even only every 60 days.

2. Dormitory rooms at UKSG, Edinburgh this year. Ask Dan Tonkery, who slept in his raincoat just to try to keep warm. The weather (no wonder it is a favorite subject) was so cold only a True Brit could withstand it (and the conference was full of True Brits as opposed to wimpy North Americans). And some of the dormitories could not generate enough heat. I didn't sleep in my raincoat. I slept in my nightgown, dressing gown, socks, and fuzzy slippers. But in a small stationery shoppe, I did find an excellent set of Winnie-the-Pooh sketches.

3. Trying to figure out why messages to and from the various new electronic lists (BOARD, PROGRAM, and NASIG-L) kept bouncing back at various stages of the implementation. I do not mean to say the process was unusually cursed with e-daemons, but that when the Electronic Communications Committee got about 60-80 bouncebacks after NASIGNET setup, we were not at our cheeriest.

4. Worrying about whether enough people will attend the 1992 conference. All of us on the Board voted for a joint conference, we made the necessary adjustments and leaps of faith. If we built it, we said cheerfully, surely they will ALL come to UIC. It is May and we currently have half as many members registered as we need to meet our commitments. I am told by people who care about my sanity that it just takes institutions a long time to cut checks; that we are about where we were last year; that it doesn't matter if we lose a prodigious amount of money because we made some in each of the last two years; that a smaller conference will be more fun anyhow. Ah, false comforters. What President and what Board and what Program Committee and what Local Arrangements Committee want to be the first to run the conference that lost lots of money? Answer: those with more courage than I.

5. Hoping that we will get at least 50% return rate on the Strategic Plan Questionnaire, a very professional and useful job by yet another dedicated group. The more replies, the more feed-in to future officers in shaping the organization. Fretting that members don't vote....

6. Filling out expense forms and trying to keep track of phone calls made for NASIG. These are things I dislike in my real job too. And I have pretty much given up on the phone bills. Maybe we need a NASIG telephone calling card for the Board...

WHAT I HOPE WILL HAPPEN:

1. That committees and participation will continue to expand and enrich.
2. That the NASIG "electronic village" will become a lively place with many dwellers and visitors.
3. That the organization's members keep growing, leaving, replenishing, in order that the organization may grow and be renewed (like a good serial).
4. That we continue to work together well and meet at many future NASIG meetings in years to come.
5. That the fledgling serials groups in countries like the Netherlands, South Africa, Australia, and China grow and prosper and that we can work with them for common understanding and fellowship in our publications and meetings.

My thanks to you all and my best wishes to all of NASIG, especially the Board, particularly Teresa Malinowski and in most recent weeks the Vice-President to be, Cindy Hepfer. In not all that long, they too will be joining John Riddick, Tina Feick, Roger Presley, Mary Beth Clack, and me in the Festschrift Retirement Home for NASIG presidents. See you in Chicago.

8TH ANNUAL NASIG CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT BROWN UNIVERSITY / Jean Callaghan

NASIG's 8th Annual Conference will be held at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, the weekend of June 12th, 1993. Brown University, founded in 1764, is one of the Ivy League universities and has an enrollment of 7,600 students. Located in the historic College Hill section of Providence, Brown is 1 hour from Boston and 3 hours from New York City. The very attractive brick campus is close to shops, restaurants and downtown Providence.

All of the facilities are within close proximity, and include a "state-of-the art" amphitheater style auditorium, a new dormitory complex (opened in September 1991), and newly renovated and expanded athletic facilities.

The Co-Chairs of the Local Arrangements Committee are Jean Callaghan (Wheaton College) and Patricia Putney (Brown University). Other committee members include: Mary Beth Clack (Harvard University), Marilyn Geller (MIT), Jane Hedberg (Wellesley College), Deborah Jensen (The Faxon Co.), Leslie Knapp (EBSCO Subscription Services), Joseph Raker (Boston Public Library), Marian Reijnen (Martinus Nijhoff International) and Steve Thompson (Brown University).

The NASIG Executive Board liaison is Teresa Malinowski (California State, Fullerton).

The Local Arrangements Committee will begin meeting this summer, and we will keep you informed of conference activities throughout the year.

**1992/1993 NASIG ELECTION RESULTS /
Bill Robnett, Chair, NASIG Nominations &
Elections Committee**

The results of the spring election are:

Vice President/President-Elect: Cindy Hepfer
Secretary: Susan Davis
Members-at-Large: John Tagler, Brenda
Hurst, Julia Gammon

While many names are submitted as potential nominees for NASIG Executive Board positions, the process very quickly becomes self-selecting. Most choose not to return their Candidate Profiles, Position Statements, and resumes for any number of reasons that we all recognize. However, a result of the low return rate this year is that the Nominations and Elections Committee chair discussed with NASIG members about standing for election until the time remaining to print and distribute the ballots was at the absolute minimum.

In its deliberations leading to the final slate of NASIG candidates, the committee strives to provide as much objectivity as possible, while recognizing that some experience and knowledge of NASIG operations are essential for certain offices, that NASIG has a North American constituency, and that new people can contribute new ideas and perspectives. This year's committee developed a Quantitative Assessment instrument for the initial step of the process that is based on concepts used by earlier committees. The most heavily weighted criterion is the level of commitment to NASIG, which, in combination with an individual's position statement, accounts for 75% of the initial assessment.

The chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee now serves a two-year term. This continuity will permit further refinement of the assessment criteria to assure fairness and objectivity, as well as supporting the development of written procedures that can be passed on to future committees to ensure consistency.

**EDI & THE LIBRARY: AN ALCTS/ALA
PRECONFERENCE**

June 25, 1992 Moscone Convention Center, San Francisco, CA

Co-sponsored by the Book Industry Study Group (SISAC & BISAC), Data Interchange Standards Association, and National Information Standards Organization, "EDI and the Library" will feature public, corporate and academic librarians who are or will be using EDI, and materials and automation vendors who are developing and providing it, especially within the ASC X12 framework.

Participants will:

****gain an understanding of EDI and ASC X12 and their relevance to library applications**

****learn how EDI standards are being developed and implemented**

****analyze both the current situation and anticipated trends, and,**

****become aware of how important the interdependency of libraries, automation vendors, and materials vendors really is.**

Representatives of automation vendors (Data Research Associates; Data Trek; Geac; Innovative Interfaces, Inc.; and NOTIS), book dealers (Baker & Taylor; Blackwell North America; and Ingram), and subscription agencies (Blackwell's Periodicals; Dawson; EBSCO; Faxon; and Readmore) will be contributing. Publishers (Penguin and John Wiley), the Chair of X12, the Chair of NISO, and value added network representatives, will also be a part of the day long program.

A brochure with complete information has been mailed to ALCTS, BISG, DISA and NISO members. To obtain a brochure, please contact the ALCTS office at 1-800-545-2433 ext. 5035.

ALCTS, BISG, DISA and NISO members: \$105
ALA members: \$140
Non-ALA members: \$165

[submitted by Tina Feick, Chair, ALCTS Preconference & Chair, SISAC]

UNITED KINGDOM SERIALS GROUP
15TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
MARCH 30 - APRIL 2, 1992
HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY
EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND

[Ed.'s Note: Also published in Newsletter on Serials Pricing Issues NS 29 (May 10, 1992).]

1. KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

"What is the literature for?"

John Maddox, Editor of Nature.

Scientific literature is an essential part of science, not just a by-product of it. Generally, scholars acknowledge that their writings embody their scholarship, almost exclusively. However, scientific literature differs from other scholarship in that new techniques and new technologies are usually less well described than are discoveries and explanations, while the structure of scientific knowledge implies that all authentic contributions to the literature are, in principle, indispensable. Maddox says that scientists do not write well; they are satisfied to assume that it is understood that writing is a mere abbreviation of their thoughts.

There is continual change in the texture of the literature. Research articles have gained precedence over books, while printing and communications technology have made their publication rapid. Though these developments are positive, scientific literature is becoming ever less accessible as literature. The presently admired stylized format and general insensibility in the use of language are more of an impediment than the prevalence of specialized jargon.

The use of publication counts to assess the value of individual researchers in the short term leads at best to nonsense, and at worst to corruption of the literature. Nature has become somewhat chary of the increased number of articles from Spain, where academic salaries are being determined with bonus points for the number of articles published in "good journals." Nature appears near the top of a ranked list of such journals. The cold fusion contretemps is an obvious example of corruption of literature, and Maddox notes the recent rash of cases of scientific fraud.

2. "The Impact of Networks on Libraries."
John Akeroyd, South Bank Polytechnic

Akeroyd described several network systems used in the United Kingdom, beginning with JANET, "an online computer network with about 50 libraries attached, providing access to the bibliographic database, interlibrary loan, information retrieval, professional communication, and online searching."

He observed that the CD is merely a convenient way to distribute large databases as LANs become very accessible. The advantages are that it is easier to budget for CD-ROMs than for the costs of online searches, and CD-ROMs are easily monitored to analyze level of usage. Disadvantages are that multiple databases with different search engines for each can confuse the users and can put them off.

The chief interface issues are the problem of attachment, lack of standardization, and search complexity. There are four different standards involved: CD-Rx, SFQL, Z39.50 (ISO), and DXS (Silver Platter).

The question and answer session elicited the comments that abstracts are becoming the primary sources for some users, that a competitive environment appears to be emerging in the UK rather than a cooperative one, and that there seems to be a trend towards on-demand publishing.

3. "Networking Databases: A User's Perspective."
Godfrey Lance, University of Bristol

BIDS (Bath ISI Data Service) links together online Science Citation Index, Social Science Citation Index, Arts and Humanities Citation Index, and Index to Scientific and Technical Proceedings, via JANET. End-users, (i.e., all students, staff, faculty, or library patrons) have "free" access to search these databases online at the institutions that have agreed to provide the service. One hundred simultaneous sessions are possible; this will expand to 300. CHEST (Combined Higher Education Software Team) has leased these databases on behalf of the British higher education community for 1991-1994, at a cost of £6,000 per site per year, plus VAT. Eventually coverage will reach back to 1981 for most of the databases. The service is run

from Bath University Computing Services on an ICL Series 39, Level 80 processor with 3 nodes, and is mounted under STATUS free text retrieval software with a menu driven interface. The user interface is described as "cleverly written" and the printed documentation as "quite clear." Searching is by word(s) in the title, author, institution, journal, Research Front Number, cited patent, or combination thereof. Searching must be done one year at a time, and one database at a time. An account describing BIDS' history and usage appears in an article by S. Scanlon, "BIDS: The Revolution in Database Access," in UKSG's publication Serials vol.5: no.1 (1992: March) p.18-28.

End-users' direct access to bibliographic databases may be changing the role of librarians/information scientists. Librarians must do the training of database users, since new users need instruction on how to do searches on various systems. Librarians are or must become the best qualified to teach and assist. With BIDS even computer novices encounter little difficulty in accessing the databases, negotiating the menus, and carrying out meaningful searches. Scanlon says, "The traditional role of the librarian as the custodian of knowledge which he sometimes reluctantly imparts to the masses needs to change to accommodate the needs of the end-user." He notes that the recent debate over the impact and appropriateness of CD-ROM may be obscuring the more profound development, that of direct access by end-users. They are likely to be more demanding of mediated online searching, to be more demanding for other databases, for text retrieval software, and for increasingly more sophisticated search capabilities through both expert and novice menu driven interfaces. Although some librarians and information professionals may fear that they are in danger of becoming de-professionalized as end-user searching becomes more widespread, this is not inevitable. Collateral support in training, guidance, and ancillary services such as ILL requests and reference assistance will become the major focus of librarians. In ruminating on the future, Lance observes that LIBERTAS is currently used to locate material and suggests that ADONIS is an interim solution. Electronic publishing is a long-term solution, where the user will get an article direct and pay for it.

4. "The Information Cornucopia: Experiments with an Integrated Workstation."

J. Eric Davies, Loughborough University

The E Reference Desk, developed by Engineering Information Inc. of New York, is designed to be a one-stop information facility that allows a user to identify and select references, retrieve and deliver documents, and manipulate material. The workstation set up at Loughborough was described and observations drawn. There is a generation gap in computer use. Students are keener on electronic searching than are faculty. Electrical engineers are more likely to use the workstation than are mechanical engineers. Things have changed since the time of Newton, who exchanged letters with his cohorts and did not need journals, which did not exist yet anyway. In a way, electronic publishing and electronic bulletin boards are going back to that earlier model.

5. "ADONIS."

Barrie Stern, Director of ADONIS.

"ADONIS is live, ADONIS is well, ADONIS is frustrating." Commercial operation of ADONIS began in 1991 after five years of trial and development initiated by publishers including Elsevier, Springer Verlag, and Blackwell's. In the initial two-year trial stage the contents of 219 biomedical journals were scanned and the images stored on 84 CD-ROMs using Group IV (GIV) CCITT facsimile standard compression at a resolution of 300 x 300 pel. At that time nearly one new disk per week required much manual handling by the 13 test sites. During the next period trebling of the CD-ROM capacity was attempted, building-in intelligence to a high volume scanner, special procedures for handling print errata and automated audit trials. It is set up as a not-for-profit corporation whose subscription charges are to pay office expenses, to cover printing costs and fees to copyright holders. The software uses unique identifiers to count usage of every article retrieved. Essentially, ADONIS is document delivery of biomedical information on CD-ROM and is proving to be cheaper than photocopying. The operation is quite international, with indexing in Amsterdam and daily courier service involving Berlin and Wales. The jukebox is the latest development. Seven

chained together handle 700 disks.

6. "Electronic Journals and Newsletters: the Newsletter on Serials Pricing Issues."
Marcia Tuttle, University of North Carolina

Tuttle opened by observing that the first ARL directory of electronic publications listed over five hundred entries and a second edition is just coming out. She traced the first mention of such publications at the 1982 UKSG conference, where BLEND (Bristol Loughborough Electronic Network Development) was described, and IES and IIT which were inspired by Lancaster's 1978 The Paperless Society. The earliest attempts failed because articles were not available to readers. Then, microcomputing took off.

A newsletter is a serial recording news on a specific topic; in NSPI "news" is interpreted broadly. It is not and will not be refereed. The newsletter is not "scholarly" and is not intended to be. It began as a committee publication of the American Library Association, the first issue appearing in February 1989. There were 50 electronic subscriptions, and 100 paper format subscriptions. More copies than that are distributed by vendors such as Faxon and EBSCO, and Dan Tonkery from Readmore spoke up to say that Readmore sends out 400 copies through its facilities. Electronic subscriptions have passed 1000. Costs of publishing NSPI are hidden. Will the University continue to subsidize it? EBSCO and Readmore get claims for issues when the editor has gone on vacation.

The NSPI tries to avoid publisher bashing but prints many letters complaining about price increases. The paper edition did not last long -- many paper subscribers switched to electronic format. NSPI separated from ALA in May 1991, and discontinued the Faxon Courier version shortly thereafter. After some months of operation, SERIALST, the serials discussion group owned, operated and edited by Birdie MacLennan at the University of Vermont, invited Tuttle to be a co-editor. SERIALST provides instant discussion and interchange online. NSPI has the right to republish information concerning pricing issues.

In the United States it seems that only Virginia

Polytechnic Institute and Ohio State University have resolved the question of whether/how to furnish electronic journals to patrons. Lack of access, the likelihood of tampering with text, questions of how to archive to preserve original text, and retention are all concerns for any electronic publication. A member of the audience noted that indexing of some electronic publications is expected to begin soon by the Modern Language Association and the American Psychological Association.

7. "The Scottish Science Library; Its Role in National Provision."
Morag Nisbet, The Scottish Science Library.

The Scottish Science Library traces its roots to 1682 with the foundation of the Library of the Faculty of Advocates and by 1925 was part of the National Library of Scotland. As such, it is one of the six legal deposit libraries of the United Kingdom. The SSL opened in mid-1989, with the collection of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and separating out the science collection of the National Library of Scotland. In November 1989 its business information service was launched.

Decisions have been made not to duplicate many services already successfully offered elsewhere, and to pursue acquisition policies and services that fill gaps identified in existing Scottish libraries.

8. "BBC."
Frances Tait, British Broadcasting Corporation

The presentation answered several questions. When and why do television program makers use serials? How do they get access to them? How do the libraries cope with a reader population interested in everything, at an academic and a popular level, who must be completely up-to-date and "by the way could I have the information straight away as" a) "my program's on-air in 10 minutes" or b) "I'm flying to Tokyo first thing tomorrow"?

Tait characterized the use of periodicals in a special library such as that of the BBC as "haphazard." Clippings or cuttings files abound. The major thrust is to provide up-to-date

information, news items. There are approximately 300 general interest subscriptions including The British Medical Journal and The New England Journal of Medicine, with a retention period of ten years. Some journals are used primarily for picture files to provide historic photographs of actual events, of the 1940s for example, or to illustrate styles of the period for sets or costuming. Vogue, Ideal Home, and Faces are titles supporting this category. Contacts are absolutely essential to BBC. It is commonplace to telephone editors of journals, or authors writing about computer viruses or any topic of pressing current interest, to get specifics or updates or more background. Full-text databases are used, as in the recent example of discovering what the US term "political correctness" was all about, discovered via Nexus in an Atlantic Monthly article. Scanning is done, especially through databases, to discover items relevant to current BBC programs. Another aspect of library service was called the "quick fix," to satisfy immediate demands for data on hot topics. Reviews are maintained for background, supplementary, or introductory material, for occasions when "I want everything on the effect of electromagnetic waves on health." The well-received presentation ended with a personal expression of gratitude to publishers, distributors, and librarians.

9. "Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh."
Colin Will, Royal Botanic Garden

The RBGE was established in 1670 as The Physic Garden, and has occupied its present location since 1820. (The trees were moved at the time). There are three other branch gardens.

Will noted that the way in which a subject is studied dictates the structure of its literature, and hence the management techniques required within a special library. The RBGE Library is a major collection which, together with the Herbarium and Garden, support international research in plant taxonomy. The institution works intensively on a finite range of plant families, and extensively on the whole range of plants found in five geographical regions. The research leads to publication of specialized types of literature, Floristic and Monographic. Floras are region specific, while Monographs are taxon specific. The library's many serials are specialized and of limited

circulation. Newsletters, small society journals and other ephemera are viewed as significant. Enthusiasts groups exist, a situation which is not common in other sciences. At times this can make it difficult to judge the worth of some small publications such as "Orchidea", "Garden Newsletter," "The Magnolia," "The Orchid Advocate," and "Garden."

Plant names change all the time, and in fact are in constant flux. Hence there is much literature generated as a consequence. The concept of what is a species has changed many times.

10. "Goldman Sachs International: The Specialist Use of Serials with an International Investment Bank."
Jane Borcherson, Goldman Sachs International.

The bank was founded in 1869 in York. It is privately owned by 147 partners, with branches in New York, London, and Tokyo. The library uses more than 550 serial titles to support the bank through company, industry, product, and people information. The serials are also employed to ascertain how Goldman Sachs International as an institution is viewed by the press. One particularly interesting description was that of subscriptions to Japanese journals via satellite from Tokyo. The paper copy is then printed out in the UK. This is seen as the only way to get the journals quickly.

11. WORKSHOP: "The Impact of the Electronic Journal on the Serials Industry."
Sharon Bonk, SUNY Albany; Arlene Moore Sievers, Case Western Reserve University

Electronic journals have no past. They are burgeoning but are not replacing established paper format journals. Interest is spurred by librarians' HOPES of doing something about pricing and the overflow from the information explosion. Researchers have hopes for faster exchange of information and data. However, publishers are not taking over any established electronic journals or starting any new ones.

Three variant definitions illustrate the difficulty of pinning down exactly what an electronic journal is:

- 1) Exists only in a digitized format and is accessible via an electronic database and/or network. (This would exclude NSPI which has existed also in paper.)
- 2) Produced, published, distributed nationally or internationally via an electronic network such as BITNET or the INTERNET. (This excludes commercial publications.)
- 3) A periodic publication of machine-readable files transmitted through a telecommunications system. (This excludes diskettes).

General observations included Sievers' opinion that the electronic format is most suitable for newsletters, not so great for journals. Bonk remarked on the prevalence of ASCII format although OCLC's Hypertext will be an innovation once it begins. SUNY Albany is not in the forefront, but has USA Today on its OPAC. Case Western Reserve also has USA Today. Case is the first fiber optically wired campus. At present they are using, forwarding, but doing nothing systematic with electronic publications. Eventually they will be on the university mainframe.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute is one of the few US libraries actually doing something to handle and distribute the new format. Gail MacMillan presented a paper at the 1991 NASIG Conference and has published descriptions of VPI's work. Their policy proceeded from VPI's philosophy -- to change the method of scholarly communication. Planning started with a task force of faculty and library staff, to determine how to access and store the data. They would have preferred to use the library LAN, but that just was not possible, so they are using their mainframe, which begs the question of who controls and archives the electronic journals. Procedures are based on the old ways of handling serials. They just wanted to DO something. Ohio State University is probably second in comprehensiveness, with ten titles or so. Stanford is downloading to disk, biding their time to put titles on the mainframe.

The Chronicle of Higher Education is trying to digitize and is looking into hypertext. OCLC's AAAS journal is intended to start up on the INTERNET any day now, and it is to be extracted in BIOSIS. A sophisticated workstation is required to handle this, IBM compatible, graphics

in typeset quality, modem, and Windows. It is a big experiment.

Bonk distributed to all a reprint of "Models of Information Flow" by Czeslaw Jan Grycz of the University of California, Office of the President (ARL 160, January 2, 1992) which she recommended highly. Of the seven models presented in this paper, Bonk noted that the site-license model is the one that seems to come up most often.

Sievers tackled the question of the marketplace and how it affects the publishing industry. She conducted an informal inquiry of Elsevier and Springer and found no specific plans to start an electronic journal or convert to electronic format. Elsevier is experimenting with five medical journals made available through BRS to hospitals and clinicians but not to libraries. These are in subject areas such as cardiology and thoracic surgery and are tied to print subscriptions. The idea is to set up models of how they would charge. Springer is looking at journals targeted to the chemical industry, Applied Catalysis and three others. Again, a specific subject with article access is involved, based on having a print subscription. Beyond the sciences, Bryn Mawr is about to begin a classics review in ASCII base only.

What is a library to do? It must involve many people, including the computing staff, not just one bibliographer and one faculty member. "There is not a lot of demand" for electronic journals, so pick what is applicable for your campus. The 2nd edition of the ACRL directory of electronic publications is 45% larger than the first. An infrastructure must be developed within the library, and although there is danger of heading into a blind alley, libraries must be prepared.

The question and answer session provoked a number of remarks. Publishers are just now accepting articles on diskette and catching on to data-processing. "ASCII is not good enough." One library has an SGML expert on the staff who needs to connect with others on campus, not remain isolated. A publisher asked if electronic journals will be peer reviewed -- the answer is that a few are already. Bonk feels that libraries may have to tailor service more -- have a science services librarian, a humanities services librarian,

etc. Gillian Page said the US represented just 1/3 of her subscribers, which will not cause an overthrow of print editions. Publishers may, however, offer parallel formats. She brought up the question of who pays the costs, and said that a publisher must sell more copies of print to make a profit. John Urquhart asked how back runs will be archived. On floppies? How does one resolve what to keep online versus what to put on tape. There may need to be a special CRL type of electronic archives. Another person noted that NASA lost the instructions manual on how to run the data cards they had compiled. Therefore, there could be some question of viability of electronic archives.

12. "Newspapers on CD-ROM."
Geoffrey Smith, British Library Newspaper Library

Smith provided a snapshot of the current situation, saying that any comments would be provisional because CD-ROM practice is still evolving. The British Library has mostly British newspapers in this format.

<u>Price, annually in £</u>	CD	MF	Index	Paper
Times. 1990-	595	700	450	165
Guardian. 1990-	495	330	470	145
Independent. 1988-	499	910	xxx	170
Financial Times. 1990-	900	585	570	170
Northern Echo. 1989-	100	xxx	xxx	xxx

Smith maintains that the choice of medium is based on institutional or user needs. Up to now, the commercial sector has required online access and cuttings in hard copy. Public and national libraries have required hard copy, microfilm, and indexes. On CD-ROM recreational material is omitted -- cross word puzzles, television schedules, birth, death, and marriage notices, and copyrighted material. These are the same exclusions as in online versions, and this limits the value for long-term research uses.

Other limitations of CD-ROM are that each title and year is separate, requiring much disk swapping. Jukeboxes are not a complete solution to this problem, because of another major limitation -- no standardization of interfaces and search strategies. Furthermore, the physical life span may be as short

as 10 years, and equipment may not be available for older material if earlier technology is superseded.

Smith's conclusion is that CD-ROM is not being used as a replacement for microform or hard copy, but rather as complement. For the future, greater standardization is needed. Prices seem to be going down. Multitype interfaces may be supplied with some databases. There may come a splitting off of the interface from the data and the search engine. Increased storage density will allow multiple years per disk and provide for storage of more graphics. Facsimile may become more approximate, with digitization of page images, or storage of page make-up information, so that an actual page may be recreated at the time of retrieval. CD-ROM may be only an intermediate stage of development, merely an alternative form of electronic publishing.

12. "Networking CD-ROM."
Nicky Whitsed, Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School

Software makes it possible to dial anywhere from a PC, which is exciting and fast but may be expensive. Networking saves multiple subscriptions, but the overall cost of networking may be higher than stand-alones. A WAN, Wide Area Network, is many LANs strung together.

Why network? 1) Cost saving; 2) multiple access; 3) off-site access; 4) better resource management; 5) improved disk performance.

Whitsed's evaluation of Silver Platter is that with 44 disks you can't see everything on one screen. There is provision for passwording but not by individual or group. The management reports on usage are a nice feature. The most negative thing is the lack of standardization, and the increasingly higher cost of licensing agreements.

13. PANEL DISCUSSION: "What if..."
The "what if" questions were gathered in advance from the audience. Gordon Graham, editor of Logos, chaired the panel.

- (1). What if UK subscription agents were reduced to 5 only?

Dan Tonkery of Readmore said the Big 5 will stay around, maybe become the Big 4 or Big 3. He noted that they are prevalent universally. Fred Friend of University College London does not think the number will be reduced.

- (2). What if librarians continue to cancel relying on the just in time idea for data retrieval services and document delivery?

Friend: Libraries are forced to justify costs, but in actuality do not have an efficient document delivery system in place now (i.e., one that takes minutes or hours vs. days). Friend has not cancelled much yet, but that day may come.

Tonkery forecasts that suppliers will become involved in document delivery. Agents will not build mammoth libraries themselves. Can't really put ALL the world's literature on CD-ROMs -- too many disks would be required.

- (3). What if network access became a charged service, and commercial entities were eligible to use the networks? (Sharon Bonk)

Friend: Commercial organizations are already beginning to use JANET, but as a service to an academic constituency. If the use were for their own ends, however, they should pay.

Tonkery: Back home the federal government is paying. You can bet that eventually there will be charges, and IBM and others will be behind it. In business, a company has many computers, but only ONE will be on the INTERNET, not the whole business, and not the mainframe.

The question was posed, how will commerce access electronic journals? "With difficulty," per Gillian Page, Pageant Publishing, but she declared that every publisher needs to see Marcia's newsletter.

Friend replied, "the same as the paper journal."

- (4). What if universities establish their own scholarly distribution channels? What happens to commercial publishers? After all, Nature showed a loss for its first 30 years.

Jo Haythornthwait of Glasgow Polytechnic suggested that the commercial publishers will stick to highly commercial items, such as recreational stuff. Academia will do its own esoterica. Universities have not been good publishers, particularly. This could be a disaster.

- (5). What if academics were paid royalties? Perhaps there would be fewer articles published. Book publishers have cut back, and their prices have not doubled in real terms as they have for journals over the last 13 years. (John Urquhart)

Tonkery: If the economics of journal publishing switches to charging by the article, the amount of information out there will also change. At present, much is subsidized.

- (6). What if Labor or Liberal Democrats win the election?

Haythornthwaite: Under Labor, education would not change much. The polytechnics are becoming universities, but they still won't be stocked as well as university libraries. Some libraries will be research libraries, some teaching libraries, some both. There will still be a two- or three-tier system of education regardless of who's in power. Labor might put more money in students' pockets. Labor would have a marginal impact.

Page: "If you're starving and standing in line, it doesn't matter who the cook is." If the Liberal Democrats won, there would not be much difference. Universities would still be searching for income. They are hiring researchers and getting patents for royalty income, and the university owns you 24 hours a day.

- (7). What if cancellations occurred for all subscriptions over a certain unacceptable increase?

That might reduce the size of journals, but would probably increase the number of journals, with no overall price or cost decrease. Friend applauds the people at Princeton, but the action was not entirely realistic. Will you look at each subscription one-by-one to decide if it is good value for money?

Haythornthwaite would like to see more ruthlessness in the cancellations. Tonkery expects that there will be more sharing, more cooperating. Libraries haven't really got there yet. This year in the US was the first time the science titles were really seriously cancelled, and this will continue next year.

14. CIVIC RECEPTION.

Hosted by the Lord Provost and Council of the City of Edinburgh. Members were piped into City Chambers and greeted by the Lord Provost (mayor). Red and white wine and whisky were served. There was a buffet of dressed whole salmon (a very Scottish specialty, and a very special specialty), roast turkey breast, roast rib of beef, baked gammon, and aubergine provençale; salads: mixed; potato; lettuce, celery, apple, pineapple and vinaigrette; pasta; cheese, carrot, peach and sultanas (raisins); and Waldorf. Dessert, before coffee, was fresh fruit salad and cream, and Scottish trifle.

15. BANQUET.

The food was quite good this year. The Banquet, in addition, had the noteworthy tasting of the haggis. The haggis was piped into the hall on a tray held high by the chef, between two pipers, and, after Robert Burns' "Address to a Haggis" was declaimed, duly piped back to the kitchen before serving. The dinner was followed by rollicking Scottish country dancing and Auld Lang Syne sung at a very early morning hour.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

ASSISTANT SERIALS LIBRARIAN in the Carlson Library. The University of Toledo is a rapidly growing state university with 25,000 students in 8 colleges offering graduate degrees including the doctorate. The library has NOTIS as the OPAC and INNOVACQ for serials control. Toledo is a dynamic city which provides a wide variety of cultural, educational, and recreational resources.

DUTIES: create and maintain local data records on the OCLC Union List Subsystem, maintain INNOVACQ computer files relative to periodical subscriptions and standing orders, assist in binding preparation and processing, and other technical service duties.

QUALIFICATIONS: MLS from an ALA-accredited school and experience using computers. Prefer experience with OCLC Union List Subsystem, some technical services background, knowledge of a modern European language. Applicants should have written and oral interpersonal communication skills for working with faculty, students, staff and vendors.

Faculty status; tenure-track position; 12 month contract; salary is \$24,000; attractive benefits package. Consideration begins May 31, 1992, and continues until position is filled. Send letter and resume, as well as names, addresses and phone numbers of three references to: Barbara Shaffer, Chair, Search Committee, Carlson Library, The University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio 43606.

The University of Toledo is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer.

CORRECTION TO THE DECEMBER 1991 NEWSLETTER

There is a correction on page 15 of the December 1991 Newsletter which lists the North Atlantic Regional Council State Representatives. The correct phone number for Helen Aiello, State Representative for Connecticut is 203-347-9411, extension 2372.

CARIBBEAN SERIALS GROUP INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

The recently formed Caribbean Serials Group (CASG) is pleased to announce its Inaugural Conference at St. Vincents Beach House, Tobago, 25 August through 4th September 1992.

The Educational Task Force of CASG has confirmed its preliminary proposals for a high level program of serials presentations and curricular themes involving participants from educational and research institutions throughout the region. Invited "Key Address" speakers include Felix Eisenberger, Dean of the School of Communication Studies, University of Grenada; Senator Gerald Ford, former President of the United States, and Dr. U.G. Barronn of the University of Medellin, Colombia. The program includes Study Tour modules to the Faculty of Library Studies, University of St. Lucia and the Library Resources Division of the University of Antigua.

As part of its Cultural and Educational Support Program, the Windward Island Government, in association with the member companies of the Caribbean Information Industry Association, is sponsoring 110 FULLY-FUNDED DELEGATE PLACES at the Inaugural Conference. In recognition of the pioneering serials attainment achieved by the professional groups in England (UKSG) and the USA (NASIG), and to ensure a successful first conference, bursaries are being offered to practicing librarians based in the United Kingdom (70 places) and North America (40 places). Bursaries cover full conference fees, first class return airline tickets to Port of Spain, accommodation at the St. Vincents Beach Hotel, and the 3 day study visits to St. Lucia and Antigua. Additional bursary payments may also be available for accompanying partners where circumstances are shown to be justified.

Applications are invited from librarians in the United States or Canada currently working in academic or research institutions with a minimum of one year's experience in serials administration and evidence of having attended at least one Annual Conference of the UKSG or NASIG. Applicants should also obtain a signature of suitability from an accredited member of the

NASIG Executive Board or the Executive Committee of the UKSG.

Interested parties should submit a 50 word application to: EMAIL:ITSASHAM@NASIG.

[submitted by Ann Okerson, and distributed at the UKSG Conference on APRIL 1, 1992]

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

June 6-11, 1992

Special Libraries Association
Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA

June 11-14, 1992

Canadian Library Association
Annual Meeting, Winnipeg, Manitoba

June 18-21, 1992

NASIG 7th Annual Conference,
University of Illinois at Chicago,
Chicago, IL

June 18-20, 1992

Society for Scholarly Publishing
14th Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL

June 27-July 2, 1992

ALA Annual Conference
San Francisco, CA

Aug. 30-Sept. 5, 1992

IFLA Annual Conference
New Delhi, India

Sept. 13-17, 1992

LITA National Conference
Denver, CO

NASIG BYLAWS

Article I. Name.

The name of this group shall be the North American Serials Interest Group, Inc. (NASIG).

Article II. Objectives.

The objectives of NASIG shall be:

1. To provide a means for the exchange and dissemination of information in the network of serial publishers, vendors, dealers, distributors, binders, librarians, students and other groups or individuals with serial interests and concerns.
2. To establish and maintain among the NASIG membership a means of communicating serial interests and concerns.
3. To provide a program of continuing education for members of NASIG and other individuals with serial interests and concerns.
4. To convene an annual conference of the membership of NASIG.
5. To publish the proceedings of the Annual Conference, and any other publications as authorized by the Executive Board.

Article III. Membership.

Section 1. Membership and rights.

Active membership shall consist of individuals who remit dues, and shall carry with it the right to vote, to hold office, and to share in the benefits afforded by the objectives of NASIG.

Section 2. Dues and fiscal year.

Dues, which shall cover a fiscal year of January 1 through December 31, shall be remitted to NASIG annually by individuals desiring membership. Proposals for changes in dues shall originate with the Executive Board and shall be voted upon by the membership by a mail ballot. A two-thirds majority of those voting shall constitute a decision.

Article IV. Executive Officers.

Section 1. Titles.

The executive officers of NASIG shall constitute a president, a vice-president/president elect, a secretary and a treasurer.

Section 2. Eligibility.

Any member of NASIG shall be eligible for election to an executive office, except as otherwise stated in these Bylaws.

Section 3. Duties.

The duties of the Executive Officers shall be as specified in the parliamentary authority adopted by NASIG, except as otherwise stated in these Bylaws.

In case of a continued failure by any one officer to fulfill the duties of the office, the Executive Board may, by a vote of three-fourths of its members, declare the office vacant.

Section 4. Terms of Office.

The vice president/president elect shall serve the first year after election as vice president, and the second year after election as president, and shall serve the third year after election on the Executive Board as past president. All other executive officers of NASIG shall be elected for a term of two years. With the exception of the vice president/president elect, all executive officers shall be eligible for re-election, but shall not serve more than two consecutive terms in office without an intervening period of two years. Terms of office for all executive board members shall begin at the adjournment of the Annual Conference.

Section 5. Vacancies.

In the event of a vacancy in the office of president, the vice president shall succeed to fulfill the unexpired term and to continue in that capacity for the following full term. Any other vacancy may be filled by appointment of the Executive Board, except as otherwise stated in these Bylaws.

Article V. Executive Board.

Section 1. Composition.

The Executive Board shall consist of the executive officers of NASIG, the immediate past president and six members-at-large who shall be nominated, elected and serve in accordance with the provision of these Bylaws. Ex-officio members, appointed by the Board to assist the organization in any capacity, may serve at the pleasure of the Board.

Section 2. Eligibility.

Any member of NASIG shall be eligible for election to the Executive Board, except as otherwise indicated in these Bylaws.

Section 3. Duties.

The Executive Board, as a whole, shall have authority over the affairs of NASIG, shall submit reports and recommendations to the membership, and shall perform such other duties as specified in these Bylaws. The membership may, by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at any meeting as provided for in Article VIII, revise the actions of the Executive Board. Each member of the Executive Board shall perform the duties inherent to Board membership. In case of continued failure of any one member to participate in the deliberations of the Board, the Board may, by a vote of three-fourths of its members, declare the office vacant. Each member-at-large shall serve as a liaison between the Board and at least one Standing Committee.

Section 4. Terms of Office.

Executive Board members-at-large shall be elected for a term of two years, and shall be eligible for re-election for no more than one additional term without an intervening period of two years. Terms of office for all members of the Executive Board shall begin at the adjournment of the Annual Conference.

Section 5. Vacancies.

Vacancies in the elected positions of the Executive Board shall be filled by appointments of the Executive Board, except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws.

Article VI. Committees.

Section 1. Composition.

Any member of NASIG shall be eligible to serve on committees. The President of NASIG shall serve as an ex-officio member of all committees, except the Nominating Committee.

Section 2. Standing Committees.

Standing committees, and their chairpersons, shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Board. The size of the committee shall be determined by its needs. These standing committees shall be the Nominating Committee, the Bylaws Committee, the Finance Committee, the Publications Committee, the Membership Committee, the Continuing Education Committee, the Library Science Student Grant Committee, and the Conference Local Arrangements Committee. Committees may be subdivided, and additional appointments made, with the approval of the Executive Board and the chairpersons of the committees.

Section 3. Terms of Office.

Members of standing committees, except the Nominating Committee, shall be appointed for terms of two years unless appointed by special action of the Board, and may be reappointed for a second term. Members of the Nominating Committee shall be appointed for terms of one year. In no case shall a member serve on a committee for more than two consecutive terms without an intervening period of two years. Terms of office for all committee members shall begin at the adjournment of the Annual Conference.

Section 4. Special Committees.

The Executive Board may appoint special committees for a specific purpose and for a specific term.

Article VII. Nominations and Elections.

Section 1. Nominations.

The Nominating Committee shall present candidates for the positions of vice-president/president elect, secretary, treasurer, and Executive Board members-at-large when required. Other nominations for these offices, endorsed by at least ten active members of NASIG, may be submitted in writing to the Nominating Committee. Any such nominations shall be included on the official ballot. The Committee shall endeavor to present at least two candidates for each office to be filled, and shall also provide on the ballot a space for write-in candidates for each office to be filled. Candidates shall be selected in such a manner as to insure as broad a representation as possible of NASIG constituencies and of the geographic distribution of membership. The Nominating Committee chairperson shall report nominations to the NASIG President at least ninety days prior to the Annual Conference.

Section 2. Elections.

Elections shall be held by mail ballot at least sixty days prior to the Annual Conference. Candidates receiving a plurality of votes cast shall be elected, and be so declared at the Annual Conference. In case of a tie vote, the Nominating Committee shall decide the election by lot. A written notice of those elected shall be mailed to each member within sixty days of the election.

Article VIII. Meetings.

An annual business meeting shall be called by the Executive Board, to be held at the site of, and in conjunction with, the Annual Conference. Other meetings as deemed necessary may be called by the Executive Board. Notice of meetings shall be mailed to the membership at least thirty days in advance of the meeting and shall include notice of the business to be transacted.

Article IX. Annual Review.

The accounts of the Treasurer of NASIG shall be reviewed annually by an auditor chosen by the Executive Board.

Article X. Dissolution.

In the event of the dissolution of NASIG, all assets and property remaining after meeting necessary expenses shall be distributed to such organizations as shall qualify under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, subject to an order of the Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York.

Article XI. Parliamentary Authority.

Robert's Rules of Order (Revised), in the latest edition, shall govern all meetings of the membership and the Executive Board in all cases where it is not inconsistent with these Bylaws. A parliamentarian may be appointed for an indefinite term by the Executive Board to serve as a consultant to the Board.

Article XII. Bylaws.

Section 1. Amendments.

Proposed amendments may be submitted in writing to the Bylaws Committee, or may be presented at any meeting of the membership. Proposed amendments shall be mailed by the Bylaws Committee to each member at least thirty days prior to the call for the vote. Voting shall be by mail ballot. Adoption shall be by two-thirds majority of those voting. An amendment shall become effective after adoption, unless otherwise stated.